

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to novel complexes of major histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecules and uses of such complexes. In particular, the invention relates to MHC fusion complexes that contain a MHC molecule with a peptide-binding groove and a presenting peptide covalently linked to the MHC protein. Fusion complexes of the invention are useful for a variety of applications including in vitro screens for identification and isolation of peptides that modulate activity of selected T cells, including peptides that are T cell receptor antagonists and partial agonists, methods of suppressing an immune response of a mammal and methods for inducing an immune response in a mammal.